

**CLAIMS**

1. An aggregation system comprising an aggregation apparatus, a first reproduction apparatus and a second reproduction apparatus,

5 wherein the aggregation apparatus includes:

a first obtainment unit operable to obtain a main content from a first recording medium;

a second obtainment unit operable to obtain a sub content; and

10 a recording unit operable to aggregate the main content and the sub content and record the aggregated contents onto a second recording medium,

the first reproduction apparatus includes:

15 a third obtainment unit operable to obtain the main content from the first recording medium;

a fourth obtainment unit operable to obtain reproduction control information for controlling reproduction of the main content; and

20 a reproduction unit operable to reproduce the main content recorded on the first recording medium, based on the reproduction control information, and

the second reproduction apparatus reproduces the main content and the sub content which are recorded on the second recording medium.

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2. The aggregation system according to Claim 1, wherein the reproduction control information indicates whether or not reproduction of the main content is permitted, and is recorded on the first recording medium,

30 the aggregation apparatus further includes:

a fifth obtainment unit operable to obtain the reproduction control information from the first recording medium;

a first judgment unit operable to judge whether or not the reproduction control information obtained by the fifth obtainment unit is information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted; and

5 a changing unit operable to change the reproduction control information recorded on the first recording medium so that said reproduction control information indicates that reproduction of the main content is not permitted, in the case where the main content and the sub content are recorded onto the second recording  
10 medium by the recording unit,

the first reproduction apparatus includes a second judgment unit operable to judge whether or not the reproduction control information obtained by the fourth obtainment unit is the information indicating that reproduction of the main content is  
15 permitted,

the recording unit aggregates the main content obtained by the first obtainment unit and the sub content obtained by the second obtainment unit and records the aggregated contents onto the second recording medium, when the first judgment unit judges  
20 that the reproduction control information is the information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted,

the fourth obtainment unit obtains the reproduction control information from the first recording medium, and

the reproduction unit reproduces the main content recorded  
25 on the first recording medium, when the second judgment unit judges that the reproduction control information is the information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted.

3. The aggregation system according to Claim 2,  
30 wherein the first reproduction apparatus and the second reproduction apparatus are identical.

4. The aggregation system according to Claim 2,  
wherein a format of the main content recorded on the first  
recording medium is same as a format of the main content  
recorded on the second recording medium.

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5. The aggregation system according to Claim 2,  
wherein the reproduction control information is index  
information which is required for reading the main content.

10 6. The aggregation system according to Claim 2,  
wherein the main content is encrypted, and  
the reproduction control information is a decryption key for  
decrypting the encrypted main content.

15 7. The aggregation system according to Claim 2,  
wherein a special area which can be physically destroyed is  
provided in the first recording medium,  
the reproduction control information is recorded in the  
special area, and  
20 the changing unit destroys the special area to prevent  
reproduction of the main content.

8. The aggregation system according to Claim 1,  
wherein the main content is recorded, in encrypted form, on  
25 the first recording medium,  
the reproduction control information is a decryption key for  
decrypting the encrypted main content,  
the first obtainment unit obtains the encrypted main content  
from the first recording medium,  
30 the recording unit aggregates the encrypted main content  
obtained by the first obtainment unit and the sub content obtained  
by the second obtainment unit and records the aggregated

contents onto the second recording medium,

the third obtainment unit obtains the encrypted main content from the first recording medium,

the fourth obtainment unit obtains the decryption key,

5 the first reproduction apparatus further includes a first decryption unit operable to decrypt the encrypted main content recorded on the first recording medium, using the decryption key obtained by the fourth obtainment unit, and

the second reproduction apparatus includes:

10 a fifth obtainment unit operable to obtain the decryption key; and

a second decryption unit operable to decrypt the encrypted main content recorded on the second recording medium, using the decryption key obtained by the fifth obtainment unit.

15 9. The aggregation system according to Claim 8, wherein the decryption key is recorded on a third recording medium,

the fourth obtainment unit obtains the decryption key from  
20 the third recording medium, and

the fifth obtainment unit obtains the decryption key from the third recording medium.

25 10. The aggregation system according to Claim 8, wherein the decryption key is recorded on the first recording medium,

the fourth obtainment unit obtains the decryption key from the first recording medium, and

30 the fifth obtainment unit obtains the decryption key from the first recording medium.

11. The aggregation system according to Claim 8,

wherein the fourth obtainment unit obtains the decryption key from outside the first reproduction apparatus, and

the fifth obtainment unit obtains the decryption key from outside the second reproduction apparatus.

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12. An aggregation apparatus for aggregating a main content recorded on a first recording medium and a sub content and recording the aggregated contents onto a second recording medium,

10 wherein reproduction control information indicating whether or not reproduction of the main content is permitted is recorded on the first recording medium, and

the aggregation apparatus comprises:

15 a first obtainment unit operable to obtain the main content from the first recording medium;

a second obtainment unit operable to obtain the sub content;

a third obtainment unit operable to obtain the reproduction control information from the first recording medium;

20 a judgment unit operable to judge whether or not the reproduction control information is information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted;

25 a recording unit operable to aggregate the main content and the sub content and record the aggregated contents onto the second recording medium, when the judgment unit judges that the reproduction control information is the information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted; and

30 a changing unit operable to change the reproduction control information recorded on the first recording medium so that said reproduction control information indicates that reproduction of the main content is not permitted, in the case where the main content and the sub content are recorded onto the second recording

medium by the recording unit.

13. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing a main content recorded on a recording medium,

5 wherein reproduction control information indicating whether or not reproduction of the main content is permitted is recorded on the recording medium, and

the reproduction apparatus comprises:

10 a first obtainment unit operable to obtain the main content from the recording medium;

a second obtainment unit operable to obtain the reproduction control information from the recording medium;

15 a judgment unit operable to judge whether or not the reproduction control information is information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted; and

20 a reproduction unit operable to reproduce the main content recorded on the recording medium, when the judgment unit judges that the reproduction control information is the information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted.

14. An aggregation method for aggregating a main content recorded on a first recording medium and a sub content and recording the aggregated contents onto a second recording medium,

25 wherein reproduction control information indicating whether or not reproduction of the main content is permitted is recorded on the first recording medium, and

the aggregation method comprises:

30 a first obtainment step of obtaining the main content from the first recording medium;

a second obtainment step of obtaining the sub content;

a third obtainment step of obtaining the reproduction control

information from the first recording medium;

a judgment step of judging whether or not the reproduction control information is information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted;

5 a recording step of aggregating the main content and the sub content and recording the aggregated contents onto the second recording medium, when it is judged in the judgment step that the reproduction control information is the information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted; and  
10 a changing step of changing the reproduction control information recorded on the first recording medium so that said reproduction control information indicates that reproduction of the main content is not permitted, in the case where the main content and the sub content are recorded onto the second recording  
15 medium in the recording step.

15. A reproduction method for reproducing a main content recorded on a recording medium,

wherein reproduction control information indicating whether  
20 or not reproduction of the main content is permitted is recorded on the recording medium, and

the reproduction method comprises:

a first obtainment step of obtaining the main content from the recording medium;

25 a second obtainment step of obtaining the reproduction control information from the recording medium;

a judgment step of judging whether or not the reproduction control information is information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted; and

30 a reproduction step of reproducing the main content recorded on the recording medium, when it is judged in the judgment step that the reproduction control information is the

information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted.

16. A program for aggregating a main content recorded on a first  
5 recording medium and a sub content and recording the aggregated contents onto a second recording medium,

wherein reproduction control information indicating whether or not reproduction of the main content is permitted is recorded on the first recording medium, and

10 the program causes a computer to execute:

a first obtainment step of obtaining the main content from the first recording medium;

a second obtainment step of obtaining the sub content;

15 a third obtainment step of obtaining the reproduction control information from the first recording medium;

a judgment step of judging whether or not the reproduction control information is information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted;

20 a recording step of aggregating the main content and the sub content and recording the aggregated contents onto the second recording medium, when it is judged in the judgment step that the reproduction control information is the information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted; and

25 a changing step of changing the reproduction control information recorded on the first recording medium so that said reproduction control information indicates that reproduction of the main content is not permitted, in the case where the main content and the sub content are recorded onto the second recording medium in the recording step.

30 17. A program for reproducing a main content recorded on a recording medium,

wherein reproduction control information indicating whether or not reproduction of the main content is permitted is recorded on the recording medium, and

the program causes a computer to execute:

5 a first obtainment step of obtaining the main content from the recording medium;

a second obtainment step of obtaining the reproduction control information from the recording medium;

10 a judgment step of judging whether or not the reproduction control information is information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted; and

15 a reproduction step of reproducing the main content recorded on the recording medium, when it is judged in the judgment step that the reproduction control information is the information indicating that reproduction of the main content is permitted.

18. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing an encrypted main content and a sub content which are recorded on a second recording medium after the encrypted main content recorded on a first recording medium and the sub content are aggregated and recorded onto the second recording medium,

wherein a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted main content is recorded on the first recording medium, and

25 the reproduction apparatus comprises:

a first obtainment unit operable to obtain the encrypted main content from the second recording medium;

a second obtainment unit operable to obtain the decryption key from the first recording medium; and

30 a decryption unit operable to decrypt the encrypted main content using the decryption key.

19. A reproduction method for reproducing an encrypted main content and a sub content which are recorded on a second recording medium after the encrypted main content recorded on a first recording medium and the sub content are aggregated and recorded onto the second recording medium,

wherein a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted main content is recorded on the first recording medium, and

the reproduction method comprises:

a first obtainment step of obtaining the encrypted main content from the second recording medium;

a second obtainment step of obtaining the decryption key from the first recording medium; and

a decryption step of decrypting the encrypted main content using the decryption key.

20. A program for reproducing an encrypted main content and a sub content which are recorded on a second recording medium after the encrypted main content recorded on a first recording medium and the sub content are aggregated and recorded onto the second recording medium,

wherein a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted main content is recorded on the first recording medium, and

the program causes a computer to execute:

a first obtainment step of obtaining the encrypted main content from the second recording medium;

a second obtainment step of obtaining the decryption key from the first recording medium; and

a decryption step of decrypting the encrypted main content using the decryption key.

21. An aggregation system comprising an aggregation apparatus and a reproduction apparatus,

wherein the aggregation apparatus includes:

a first obtainment unit operable to obtain a main content;

a second obtainment unit operable to obtain a sub content;

a third obtainment unit operable to obtain aggregation

5 judgment information indicating whether or not aggregation of the main content and the sub content and recording of the aggregated contents onto a recording medium are permitted;

a judgment unit operable to judge whether or not the aggregation judgment information is information indicating that  
10 aggregation of the main content and the sub content and recording of the aggregated contents onto the recording medium are permitted; and

a recording unit operable to aggregate the main content and the sub content and record the aggregated contents onto the  
15 recording medium, when the judgment unit judges that the aggregation judgment information is the information indicating that aggregation and recording onto the recording medium are permitted, and

the reproduction apparatus reproduces the main content  
20 and the sub content which are recorded on the recording medium.

22. An aggregation apparatus for aggregating a main content and a sub content and recording the aggregated contents onto a first recording medium, comprising:

25 a first obtainment unit operable to obtain the main content;  
a second obtainment unit operable to obtain the sub content;

a third obtainment unit operable to obtain aggregation judgment information indicating whether or not aggregation of the  
30 main content and the sub content and recording of the aggregated contents onto the first recording medium are permitted;

a judgment unit operable to judge whether or not the

aggregation judgment information is information indicating that aggregation of the main content and the sub content and recording of the aggregated contents onto the first recording medium are permitted; and

5        a recording unit operable to aggregate the main content and the sub content and record the aggregated contents onto the first recording medium, when the judgment unit judges that the aggregation judgment information is the information indicating that aggregation and recording onto the first recording medium are  
10 permitted.

23.    The aggregation apparatus according to Claim 22,  
      wherein the main content is recorded on a second recording medium, and a predetermined identifier is further recorded on the  
15 second recording medium,

      the aggregation apparatus further comprises:

      a fourth obtainment unit operable to obtain the predetermined identifier from the second recording medium; and

      a sending unit operable to send the predetermined identifier  
20 to a predetermined apparatus for sending the aggregation judgment information based on the predetermined identifier,

      the first obtainment unit obtains the main content from the second recording medium, and

      the third obtainment unit obtains the aggregation judgment  
25 information by receiving said aggregation judgment information from the predetermined apparatus.

24.    The aggregation apparatus according to Claim 23,  
      wherein the predetermined identifier is a medium identifier  
30 that specifies the second recording medium.

25.    The aggregation apparatus according to Claim 23,

wherein the predetermined identifier is a content identifier that specifies the main content.

26. The aggregation apparatus according to Claim 22,  
5 wherein the aggregation judgment information is information indicating whether or not aggregation of the main content and the sub content and recording of the aggregated contents onto the first recording medium are permitted, depending on billing for aggregation of the main content and the sub content.

10 27. The aggregation apparatus according to Claim 22,  
wherein the aggregation judgment information is information indicating whether or not aggregation of the main content and the sub content and recording of the aggregated  
15 contents onto the first recording medium are permitted, depending on the number of aggregations of the main content and the sub content.

20 28. The aggregation apparatus according to Claim 22,  
wherein the main content and the aggregation judgment information are recorded on a second recording medium,  
the first obtainment unit obtains the main content from the second recording medium, and  
the third obtainment unit obtains the aggregation judgment  
25 information from the second recording medium.

29. An aggregation method for aggregating a main content and a sub content and recording the aggregated contents onto a recording medium, comprising:

30 a first obtainment step of obtaining the main content;  
a second obtainment step of obtaining the sub content;  
a third obtainment step of obtaining aggregation judgment

information indicating whether or not aggregation of the main content and the sub content and recording of the aggregated contents onto the recording medium are permitted;

5 a judgment step of judging whether or not the aggregation judgment information is information indicating that aggregation of the main content and the sub content and recording of the aggregated contents onto the recording medium are permitted; and

10 a recording step of aggregating the main content and the sub content and recording the aggregated contents onto the recording medium, when it is judged in the judgment step that the aggregation judgment information is the information indicating that aggregation and recording onto the recording medium are permitted.

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30. A program for aggregating a main content and a sub content and recording the aggregated contents onto a recording medium, the program causing a computer to execute:

20 a first obtainment step of obtaining the main content;  
a second obtainment step of obtaining the sub content;  
a third obtainment step of obtaining aggregation judgment information indicating whether or not aggregation of the main content and the sub content and recording of the aggregated contents onto the recording medium are permitted;

25 a judgment step of judging whether or not the aggregation judgment information is information indicating that aggregation of the main content and the sub content and recording of the aggregated contents onto the recording medium are permitted; and

30 a recording step of aggregating the main content and the sub content and recording the aggregated contents onto the recording medium, when it is judged in the judgment step that the

aggregation judgment information is the information indicating that aggregation and recording onto the recording medium are permitted.

- 5 31. An aggregation system comprising an aggregation apparatus, and a reproduction apparatus,  
wherein the aggregation apparatus includes:  
a first obtainment unit operable to obtain a main content;  
a second obtainment unit operable to obtain a sub content;  
10 and  
a recording unit operable to aggregate the main content and the sub content and record the aggregated contents onto a recording medium, and  
the reproduction apparatus includes:  
15 a judgment unit operable to judge whether or not a situation of reproduction of the main content and the sub content satisfies a predetermined condition indicating that reproduction of the main content and the sub content is permitted, and  
a reproduction unit operable to reproduce the main content  
20 and the sub content which are recorded on the recording medium, when the judgment unit judges that the situation satisfies the predetermined condition.
- 25 32. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing a main content and a sub content which are aggregated and recorded onto a recording medium, comprising:  
a judgment unit operable to judge whether or not a situation of reproduction of the main content and the sub content satisfies a  
predetermined condition indicating that reproduction of the main  
30 content and the sub content is permitted; and  
a reproduction unit operable to reproduce the main content and the sub content which are recorded on the recording medium,

when the judgment unit judges that the situation satisfies the predetermined condition.

33. The reproduction apparatus according to Claim 32, further comprising a deletion unit operable to delete the main content and the sub content which are recorded on the recording medium, when the judgment unit judges that the situation of reproduction does not satisfy the predetermined condition.

34. The reproduction apparatus according to Claim 32, wherein the predetermined condition is a maximum number of reproductions indicating up to how many reproductions of the main content and the sub content are permitted,

the reproduction apparatus further comprises a number recording unit operable to record, on the recording medium, the number of uses of the recording medium which is incremented by one every time the reproduction unit reproduces the main content and the sub content which are recorded on the recording medium, and

the judgment unit judges that the situation of reproduction does not satisfy the predetermined condition, when the number of uses recorded on the recording medium has reached the maximum number of reproductions indicated in the predetermined condition.

35. The reproduction apparatus according to Claim 32, wherein the predetermined condition is a number of remaining reproductions indicating how many more reproductions of the main content and the sub content are permitted, and an upper limit of the number of reproductions is previously recorded on the recording medium,

the reproduction apparatus further includes a number recording unit operable to record, on the recording medium, the

number of remaining reproductions which is decremented by one every time the reproduction unit reproduces the main content and the sub content which are recorded on the recording medium, and the judgment unit judges that the situation of reproduction does not satisfy the predetermined condition, when the number of remaining reproductions recorded on the recording medium is zero.

36. The reproduction apparatus according to Claim 32, wherein the predetermined condition is maximum reproduction time indicating up to how long reproductions of the main content and the sub content are permitted, the reproduction apparatus further includes:

a reproduction time measurement unit operable to measure reproduction time every time the reproduction unit reproduces the main content and the sub content which are recorded on the recording medium; and

a reproduction time recording unit operable to accumulate the reproduction time measured by the reproduction time measurement unit and record the accumulated reproduction time on the recording medium, and

the judgment unit judges that the situation of reproduction does not satisfy the predetermined condition, when the accumulated reproduction time recorded on the recording medium has reached the maximum reproduction time indicated in the predetermined condition.

37. The reproduction apparatus according to Claim 32, wherein the predetermined condition is remaining reproduction time indicating how long more reproductions of the main content and the sub content are permitted, and an upper limit of the remaining reproduction time is previously recorded on the

recording medium,

the reproduction apparatus further includes:

a reproduction time measurement unit operable to measure reproduction time every time the reproduction unit reproduces the main content and the sub content which are recorded on the recording medium; and

a time recording unit operable to record, on the recording medium, the remaining reproduction time which is decremented by the reproduction time measured by the reproduction time measurement unit, every time the reproduction unit reproduces the main content and the sub content which are recorded on the recording medium, and

the judgment unit judges that the situation of reproduction does not satisfy the predetermined condition, when the remaining reproduction time recorded on the recording medium is zero.

38. The reproduction apparatus according to Claim 32, wherein the main content is encrypted, and the reproduction apparatus further includes:

a decryption key obtainment unit operable to obtain a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted main content; and a decryption unit operable to decrypt the main content which is encrypted using the decryption key obtained by the decryption key obtainment unit.

39. A reproduction method for reproducing a main content and a sub content which are aggregated and recorded onto a recording medium, comprising:

a judgment step of judging whether or not a situation of reproduction of the main content and the sub content satisfies a predetermined condition indicating that reproduction of the main content and the sub content is permitted; and

a reproduction step of reproducing the main content and the sub content which are recorded on the recording medium, when it is judged in the judgment step that the situation satisfies the predetermined condition.

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40. A program for reproducing a main content and a sub content which are aggregated and recorded onto a recording medium, the program causing a computer to execute:

10 a judgment step of judging whether or not a situation of reproduction of the main content and the sub content satisfies a predetermined condition indicating that reproduction of the main content and the sub content is permitted; and

15 a reproduction step of reproducing the main content and the sub content which are recorded on the recording medium, when it is judged in the judgment step that the situation satisfies the predetermined condition.